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Summary

* Muses

Muses are the goddesses of the inspiration of literature, science, and the arts. They were considered the source of the knowledge. Some authors invoke Muses when writing poetry, hymns or epic history. The invocation typically occurs at or near the beginning, and calls for help or inspiration, or simply invites the Muse to sing through the author. They were the daughters of Zeus, lord of all gods, and [Mnemosyne](http://www.infoplease.com/cgi-bin/id/A0833499), who represented memory, was goddess of memory and remembrance and the invention of language and words. Therefore, there is closed relationship between memory and muses. Memory was important for the Muses because in ancient times, when there were no books, poets had to carry their work in their memories.

Nine muses:

（Calliope）the muse of epic poetry --> writing tablet

（Clio）the muse of history --> scrolls

（Melpomene）the muse of tragedy--> tragic mask

（Euterpe）the muse of music--> ancient music instrument like a flute

（Terpsichore）the muse of dance--> lyre

（Erato）the muse of love poetry-->ancient music instrument like a lyre

（Urania）the muse of astronomy--> globe and compass

（Thalia）the muse of comedy-->comic mask

（Polyhymnia）the muse of sacred poetry-->meditate

Words to learn:

1. Mind, mental: PIE root \*men- "think, remember, have one's mind aroused," with derivatives referring to qualities of mind or states of thought

2. Memory: PIE root \*(s)mer- "to remember"

3. Museum

“Place of study, library or museum, school of art or poetry," originally "a seat or shrine of the Muses"

4. Music

“One of arts of muse”

* Cyclops

The Cyclopes (singular: Cyclops) were gigantic, one-eyed monsters. Based on their description, they were a wild race of gigantic growth, similar in nature to the earth-born Giants, and had a single eye in the middle of their foreheads. They led a lawless life, possessing neither social manners nor fear for the gods. Probably the most famous of them is Polyphemus, the Cyclops that was blinded by Odysseus.

Words to learn:

PIE: \*kwel- "to roll, to move around, wheel"

Greek kyklos "circle, wheel, any circular body, circular motion, cycle of events"

* cyclone, bicycle, tricycle, recycle, cyclic
* Echo and Narcissus

Words to learn:

1. Narcissus--> a kind of flower grown in the water

2. Echo--> The sound is repeated after the original sound has stopped. Or someone repeats the words of others

\*PIE root \*swagh- "to resound"; Greek: from or related to ekhe "sound," ekhein "to resound"

3. Narcissist--> someone who falls in love with his own appearance

* Pan

Pan was the Greek god of shepherding and living in the wild. Pan is perhaps the most well-known of the Satyrs - men with the legs and horns of goats. Like all satyrs, he was fun-loving and energetic, but also moody and prone to temper tantrums. It was believed that he often chased nymphs in order to seduce them, but he was always turned down due to his appearance. Moreover, the word 'panic' derives from Pan. When Pan blew his pipes, it would strike fear into the hearts of the herd who heard it. It was so frightening that caused panic to anyone who was unlucky to be close enough to hear it.

Words to learn:

Greek: Pan means “all ”

1. Pantheon: a temple dedicated to all the gods

2. Pandemic: an outbreak of such a disease; adj. prevalent over a whole country or the world.

3. Panacea: a solution or remedy for all difficulties or diseases

* Brief introduction of Greek language

Greek is an Indo-European language. The early stages of the language we conveniently call Proto-Hellenic. This early language broke into dialects, Three main dialects are the Ionic, Doric and Aeolic dialect and all were spoken during the classical period (around 500 BC). Thus classical Greek literature has been written in all three. A branch of the Ionic dialect with several Doric elements developed in Attica. This we call the Attic dialect, and it is very important historical reason for most of classical Greek literatures since they were been written in it. In later centuries the Attic dialect was considered to be the high point of the Greek language, and authors often tried to write in Attic Greek. Thus, it did influence on the evolution of the Greek language in the following eras. Nowadays, 13 million people, mainly in Greece and Cyprus, speak Greek as an official language. Greek is also recognized as a minority language in parts of Italy, and in Albania, Armenia, Romania and Ukraine.